AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An alkali catalysed two-stage process for the gasification of cellulose spent liquor, which process comprises the steps of:

(a) combusting in a first reaction zone of a gas generator a stream comprising an oxygen containing gas and a cellulose spent liquor at a pressure of from 0.1 to about 10 MPa, evolving heat sufficient to raise the temperature in said reaction zone to a first temperature in the range from 1000 degree C. to 1400 degree C., forming a gaseous component stream and entrained slag particles ~~alkali droplets~~ and a liquid alkaline molten slag comprising at least 75% combined weight of alkali oxide, alkali hydroxide, alkali carbonate and alkali ~~borate's~~ borates,

(b) separating said liquid alkaline molten slag from the gaseous component stream and dissolving liquid molten slag in an aqueous solution, forming an alkaline liquor with an alkali bicarbonate content lower than about 2 grams/liter,

(c) cooling in a substantially vertically arranged second reaction or gas transfer zone of the gas generator said gaseous ~~components~~ component stream and entrained slag particles to a second temperature below about 1000 C,

(d) further cooling the gaseous component stream to a temperature below about 250 C. by at least one of;

i) indirect heat exchange in one or more stages for the generation of fresh steam,

ii) cooling by the direct injection of an aqueous quench liquid into the gaseous component stream,

(e) separating entrained slag ~~alkaline~~ particles from the gaseous component stream and recycling of said particles to a gas generator spent cellulose liquor feed stream or separating entrained slag ~~alkaline~~ particles from the gaseous component stream and dissolving said particles in an aqueous solution,

(f) discharging the gaseous component stream from step e) for use as a gaseous fuel or for use as a synthesis gas or combinations thereof.

2. (currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein cooling of the gaseous components stream and entrained slag particles in step c) is achieved by the injection of cellulose spent liquor which liquor under endothermic conditions is decomposed to a stream of gaseous components and entrained ~~alkaline~~ slag particles.

3. (currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein liquid alkaline slag or ~~alkaline~~ slag particles are conveyed by gravity from the second reaction or gas transfer zone counter current to a gaseous component stream, to combine with the alkaline molten slag of step a).

4. (currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the alkali ~~borate's~~ borates present in the molten slag of step a) ~~substantially consists of~~ comprise trisodium borate, ~~disodium~~ tetrasodium borate and sodium metaborate or their potassium analogues and combinations thereof.

5. (currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the alkali borates present in the molten slag of step a) ~~substantially consists of~~ comprise trisodium borate, ~~disodium~~ tetrasodium borate and potassium triborate or combinations thereof.

6. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the second temperature after cooling in step c) is in the range of 800 C to 1000 C.

7. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the sulfur content of the cellulose spent liquor in step a) measured as

elemental sulfur is lower than 2% by weight.

8. (currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the liquid alkaline molten slag of step a) has ~~have~~ a sulfide content corresponding to less than 2% by weight of the ~~smelt~~ molten slag.

9. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein the oxygen-containing gas is air, oxygen-enriched air, or oxygen.

10. (original) The process of claim 1 wherein cellulose spent liquor of step a) is recovered from an alkaline soda pulping process with a pulping liquor sulfidity level lower than about 10%.

11. (currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein aqueous solution of e) is recycled to combine with ~~raw cooking~~ the alkaline liquor of b).

12. (currently amended) The process of claim 11 wherein carbon dioxide gas is liberated and removed from the aqueous solution prior to combining with the ~~raw cooking~~ alkaline liquor of b), said liberation achieved by thermal treatment of the solution, decompression and flashing, or combinations thereof to

provide an alkaline solution with an alkali carbonate content lower than about 2 g/liter.

13. (new) The process of claim 4 wherein the alkali borates present in the molten slag of step a) substantially consists of trisodium borate or its potassium analogues.

14. (new) The process of claim 5 wherein the alkali borates present in the molten slag of step a) substantially consists of trisodium borate or its potassium analogues.